

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-5 are now in the application. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claim 5 has been added. Claim 2 has been withdrawn.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1, 3, and 4 have been rejected as being anticipated by Radocaj (US Pat. No. 4,392,840) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). In item 4 on pages 3-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1, 3, and 4 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Hofmann et al. (US Pat. No. 6,250,224 B1) in view of Radocaj (US Pat. No. 4,392,840) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejections have been noted and claims 1 and 4 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 13, lines 13-18 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 4 call for, inter alia:

a belt for revolving during operation, said belt defining a longitudinal direction and a transverse direction, said belt having two protruding edges oriented in the

longitudinal direction of said belt and being opposite one another in the transverse direction of said belt, said belt having a non-constant modulus of elasticity. (Emphasis added.)

According to the invention of the instant application, the modulus of elasticity of the belt is not constant over the width of the belt. This feature is not disclosed in Radocaj or in Hofmann et al. The object of this feature is to facilitate the proper alignment of the belt and to prevent slippage.

Clearly, neither Radocaj nor Hofmann et al. show "said belt having a non-constant modulus of elasticity", as recited in claims 1 and 4 of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 and 4. Claims 1 and 4 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since claim 3 is dependent on claim 1, it is believed to be patentable as well.

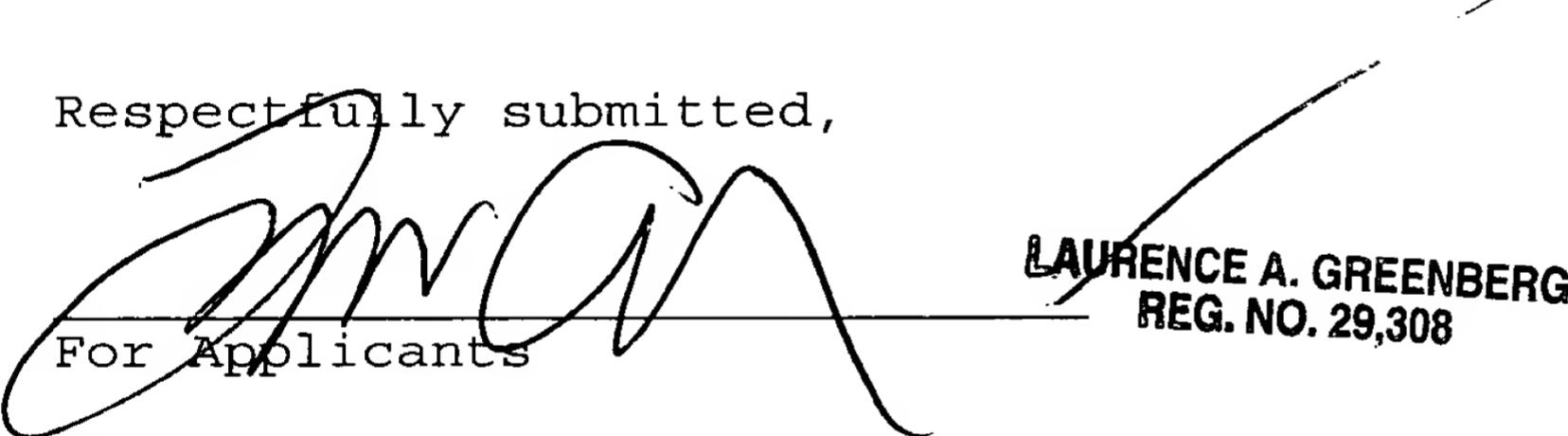
Independent claim 5 has been added, which recites that the stops of the belt guide have curved surfaces. Neither Radocaj nor Hofmann et al. disclose curved surfaces as stops. Claim 5 is therefore believed to be patentable over the art.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-5 are solicited. The allowance of withdrawn claim 2 is requested upon allowance of generic claim 1.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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